Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2648 INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

UNCLAS EC BRUSSELS 12569

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, EAID, EEC, PK

SUBJECT: COMMUNITY FOOD AID PROGRAM 1976 - 3,500 M.T. OF SKIMMED

MILK POWDER FOR PAKISTAN

REF: EC BRUSSELS 9557

THE EC COMMISSION HAS SENT US THE FOLLOWING LETTER REGARDING ITS SKIMMED MILK POWDER AID TO PAKISTAN (REFTEL):

QTE FOLLOWING OUR BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS EARLIER THIS YEAR A U.M.R. OF 5,600 T. WAS FIXED FOR S.M.P. IN THE CASE OF PAKISTAN VIDE CCP/CSD/76/159 AND 229 OF 8.6.76 AND 10.27.76 RESPECTIVELY. IN THE COURSE OF NEGOTIATIONS REGARDING THE PROVISION OF THIS FOOD AID PAKISTAN HAS, ON THE ONE HAND, MAINTAINED THAT THE FIGURE OF 5,600 T. WAS ERRONEOUSLY CALCULATED AS THE AVERAGE FOR THE PAST FIVE YEARS BECAUSE THE 1970 AND 1971 IMPORT STATISTICS COVERED NOT ONLY PAKISTAN BUT ALSO WHAT IS NOW BANGLADESH. ON THE OTHER HAND, IT HAS INSISTED THAT FOR THE REASONS SHOWN BELOW A NIL U.M.R. SHOULD BE FIXED FOR 1976:

(A THE PRESENT SEVERE PRESSURE ON THE COUNTRY S BALANCE OF PAYMENTS POSITION, AGGRAVATED BY THE DEVASTATING FLOODS WITH WHICH IT HAS BEEN AFFLICTED SMNCLN UNCLASSIFIED

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(B) ITS INADEQUATE FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESOURCES WHICH RENDER IMPOSSIBLE THE COMMERCIAL PURCHASE OF ANY SKIMMED MILK POWDER SMNCLN

(C) PAKISTAN IS A M.S.A. COUNTRY.

IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING IT HAS BEEN DECIDED TO SUBSTITUTE A NIL U.M.R. IN PLACE OF $5{,}600~\rm{T}$.

SHOULD YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON THIS DECISION I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU WOULD DO SO BY 1.3.77 AT THE LATEST. UNQUOTE HINTON

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